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My name is Trish McQuillen and I reside at 260 Rowayton Ave in Norwalk, CT. I would like to offer testimony on behalf of Next Health in support of Senate Bill 175. I am unable to be here due to my son's revised winter break.

My mother suffered a series of falls in her early 80's which led to hip and knee joint replacement surgery. Complications including numerous small strokes as well as the loss of their home from Hurricane Sandy necessitated moving with my dad to an assisted living residence in CT. Mom also had arthritis, scoliosis, and dementia all of which led to complete immobility and aphasia. She was in pain and was anxious about re-positioning and transfers but she did not want to be stuck in bed, nor would it be good for her. Her condition deteriorated and she was being transferred by the Hoyer lift with an assist of two to three staff members, three times per day. It was uncomfortable, anxiety-producing and it often resulted in "bumps and bruises" and occasional skin tears. My family incurred the additional financial burden involved in this routine due to the extra staff and time required for the Hoyer method.

A friend of mine knew about the Agile Life system and it seemed to be the answer for enabling my mom to remain safely and comfortably with my dad so we rented it. Next Health trained the staff at the facility and my mother was then able to spend the better part of her day out of bed as desired. In addition, mom's improved mobility allowed her to remain with my dad in an assisted living setting and not be moved to a skilled nursing facility. By doing this, it not only saved us money, there were also other benefits which included:

- Improved independence and ability to attend meals and social functions with other residents.
- No longer needed a mechanical lift plus two to three aides to be transferred in and out of bed or be boosted in bed which has reduced anxiety, agitation and skin injuries (have photos of former injuries if necessary)
- No falls or caregiver injuries from manual transfers.
- Easy transfers led to more frequent incontinence care which led to fewer urinary tract infections and fewer hospitalizations.
- Less pain and anxiety overall, leading to a better quality of life.
- Her weight was able to be tracked with the in-bed scale to determine nutritional needs.

The only drawback to this bed was that insurance denied coverage despite my getting her doctor's approval, prescription and letter of medical necessity. A great deal of time and effort has gone into responding to the denial/appeal however my mom passed away during the wait period. I do not want other families to have to go through this insurance nightmare! It has been a full year since the claims were put in and still today it is not resolved. I cannot imagine how many other people would benefit from the Agile Life if it were a covered expense --- even partially covered. If my parents only had this option after Hurricane Sandy, they could have lived out the last two years at home. I hope you will strongly consider providing coverage for the Agile Life and feel it will be beneficial to patients, families and caregivers.

Thank you.



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